



John R. Groundwater Sr.

September 1, 1921 - October 11, 2024

On October 11, 2024, John R. Groundwater, Sr., of Alexandria, VA, passed away peacefully at the age of 103 at the Uptown Living Assisted facility in Manassas, VA. John was an avid reader who found joy in the pages of countless books. He cherished his time building furniture, rebuilding cars, fishing, and spending time enjoying his beach home in Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

Born on September 1, 1921, in London, Ontario, Canada, John became a U.S. citizen at age six, settling with his parents in the Washington D.C. area. He attended Anacostia High School and later worked as a draftsman with his father at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA. During World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C. After successfully completing pilot training, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and flew 19 combat missions over Germany with the 8th Air Force, 453rd Bomb Group(H) in England, flying the B-24 Liberator "Male Call" until the war's conclusion.

Following the war, he returned to Alexandria, VA and married Marjorie Elizabeth Garrison of Earlysville, VA, who preceded him in death in 2011. John is survived by two sons, John R. Groundwater, Jr. and his wife Susan of Manassas, VA, and Jay S. Groundwater, of Atlanta, GA. He also leaves behind four grandchildren - Sean, Patrick, Kaitlin, and Catherine - and three great-grandchildren - Liam, Charlotte, and Lucy.

Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to

World War II Foundation

<https://wwiifoundation.org/donate/>

Capital Caring Health

<https://capitalcaring.funraise.org/>

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ John was my neighbor here in Wilton Woods! I used to walk by his house and if he was outside, we would always stop and talk! Sometimes I would stop by and bang on his door so he would hear me and come out and talk or invite me in. What a great guy!

One night I invited him over to dinner with 2 couples from my immediate neighborhood. Somehow WWII came up and John started talking about his various wartime flights and planes and honestly, John looked so young, they weren't really sure if this was true or not. We straightened them out though! At the time, he told me he was 92.

During the summer, he would walk to the neighborhood pool every day. Another time, when it was snowing, he got his car stuck in the driveway on ice. His beautiful wife was sitting in the car waiting for the car to get unstuck. One of the same neighbors above, came by and helped dig him out. He was so grateful for the help Mike gave him!

Always a smile - always interested in the other person - I read the comments of the staff above and thought they were blessed to have John as he was blessed to have them.

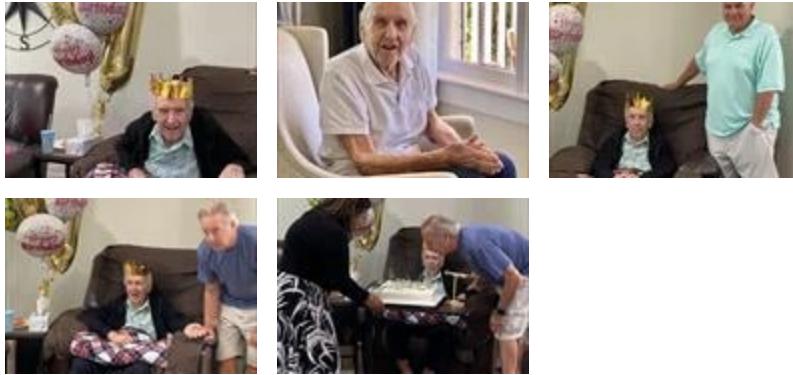
I hope that the family will let us know when the Arlington service is. I would sure love to attend!



Catherine Foltz - November 10, 2024 at 01:07 PM

CD

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. John during my mom’s stay at Uptown Assisted Living. Not only is he an American hero, he was also such a joy to visit with, always greeting me with a big smile. I also had the pleasure of celebrating his 103rd birthday with his family and the wonderful staff members. Please enjoy a few of the photos I was able to take. You are very missed Mr. John. Rest In Peace sir. -Cristina Dillon and Gilia Perkins



Cristina Dillon - October 20, 2024 at 01:41 PM

AN

“ Today is a sad day for us, the caregivers, who had the honor of caring for Mr. John, a man who leaves behind a legacy of commitment and loyalty to his country. That commitment and loyalty were matched by the great love he had until his last moment for his family, his children, and his grandchildren, as well as his joy and gratitude for all of us. Today, you decided to soar higher than you ever have before. Today, you reunite with your wife and all your loved ones. Thank you for everything, thank you for so much. Today, I can say I had the honor of caring for a hero, the hero of Uptown, who gave us his best moments, filled with joy. We will remember you, and you will be forever in our hearts. Rest in peace 🙏
Ada Nacci and the caregiver staff of Uptown

Addolorata Nacci - October 15, 2024 at 09:57 PM

JG

Such a beautiful tribute to my father. It brought tears to my eyes. It was such a comfort to me to know that my father was taken care of by such fine loving people. I will never forget your kindness. Thank you, Jay

Jay Groundwater - October 19, 2024 at 07:23 AM

MF

*“ Met Mr John at the home and fell in love with his big smile and wink
oh wow what a big miss it has been
Keeping his family in our prayers
The Flores*

mary & buddy flores - October 15, 2024 at 02:08 PM